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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.   25X1A

INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

COUNTRY Turkey and Arab States  
SUBJECT RADIO MOSCOW'S USE OF  
THE "GREATER TURKEY" THEME

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Appeals to nationalism are a major element in the Soviet radio's attempts to arouse antagonism against American domination. But Moscow only rarely makes use of traditional national or religious antagonisms--e.g., German-French, Turko-Greek, Jewish-Arab, Moslem-Hindu.

During the past eight months or so, however, Moscow has sporadically warned Arab listeners that the Turks are dreaming of a revival of the Ottoman Empire--a "Greater Turkey" scheme which would encompass the Arab states. This theme, introduced last March, received its greatest emphasis during the last week in November; it has not been stressed since.

The flurry of "Greater Turkey" charges in late November appeared in comment denouncing a Middle East command and in discussion of the Soviet notes to the Arab states, the Four Powers, and Turkey. While the aggressive plans of the Big Three surprisingly received only routine attack, Turkey was singled out as the main culprit in attempting to entice the Arab states into an "aggressive" Middle East pact. It should be pointed out that the "Greater Turkey" charges comprise a small portion of the total treatment of the Middle East (during the week mentioned above there were 4 such commentaries) and as such must be viewed along with, not separated from, other themes and topics.

The commentaries containing the charges that Turkey has designs on her Arab neighbors are heard mainly in Arab-language broadcasts. But the charge is also made in Persian and in broadcasts in the Soviet Home Service. This pattern strongly suggests that Soviet propagandists are attempting--at least tentatively--to create division and antagonism in the Moslem Middle East. The pattern might also possibly be an attempt to divert anxiety over Soviet aggression by raising the image of Turkish expansionism. To the Soviet listener charges of Turkish designs on the Arabs might serve as proof that Turkey is capable of aggression against the Soviet Union. (However, no explicit statements of the Turks' desire for Soviet territory--once Turkish--has been made in monitored home service broadcasts. The single broadcast that made explicit reference to such desires (see below) was heard only in Turkish.)

There follow excerpts of the charges made along with the broadcast dates. It will be noted that there are occasional periods when the subject of "Greater Turkey" was not mentioned.

20 March 1951 (This was apparently the first reference to "Greater Turkey.")

"Plans for forming a 'Greater Turkey' are afoot. Koprulu dreams of invading Syria and Lebanon. ... Turkish generals will be put in charge of Arab armies." (in Arabic twice)

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27 April 1951

Trygve Lie, who speaks for the U.S., wants to bring American-led Turkish--Turkey, the old enemy and oppressor--forces into Arab countries to safeguard strategic routes. (Arabic twice, Turkish)

17 May 1951

The Turkish Democratic Party is "fanning nationalism and planning to form a 'Greater Turkey' which would embrace the whole of the old Ottoman Empire and would stretch from the Danube to the Urals." (Turkish 3 times)

20 June 1951

Turkey will have the leading role in any regional military pact. Turkish ruling circles have aspirations toward a "Greater Turkey." (Persian, Arabic, Turkish)

18 August 1951

Under the plan to divide Syria, Aleppo will be handed to Turkey, the Damascus region to Jordan and Dair Al Zur to Iraq. (Arabic)

27 August 1951

The Turks, dreaming of the rebirth of the Ottoman Empire, compel the Arabs of Alexandrette to become Turks. (Arabic)

Mid October 1951

Turkey believes that the "Greater Turkey" plan can be easily implemented by joining NATO. (Turkish)

16 November 1951

Turkey dreams of reviving her great Ottoman Empire and turning the Arab countries into Turkish provinces. (Arabic once, Turkish twice)

19 November 1951

Turkey has always been the enemy of the Arab people. Under the pretext of joint defense Turkey is making aggressive plans against Syria. She harbors hostile intentions towards Aleppo and northern regions of Syria. Turkey, dreaming of a "Greater Turkey," aims at a rebirth of the Ottoman Empire. (Arabic)

24 November 1951

Turkish prestige with the Arab peoples has never been so low. The Syrian press calls Turkey a treacherous neighbor. Reactionary ruling circles of Ankara dream of reviving the Ottoman Empire and lay claim to Arab lands including the Aleppo area. They want to acquire military bases in Jaziret in Syria and in El Bab in Lebanon. (Turkish, Persian)

29 November 1951

Turkey is trying to join a Western bloc which will in turn give her military assistance in reviving the Ottoman Empire. (Persian)

29 November 1951

Turkey occupied the Syrian port of Alexandrette and she now covets Aleppo. The Turkish rulers would like to restore the age of the Ottoman Empire through the aid of the American imperialists. They desire to have the Arab countries ruled by the Turkish pashas. (Arabic twice)

29 November 1951

Turkey is helping the Western powers for the purpose of reviving the Ottoman Empire. The inclusion of Turkey in MEC was a device that failed. Arabs are on the alert because they do not forget the past. During the time the Turks occupied Lebanon they destroyed all freedoms. (Soviet Home Service)

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